

American people of an important measurement of money supply, especially since Congress has tasked the Federal Reserve Board with reporting on monetary aggregates. Discontinuing reporting M3 may not be a violation of the letter of the Federal Reserve Board's statutory duty, but it is a violation of the spirit of the congressional command that the Federal Reserve Board ensure the American public is fully informed about the effects of monetary policy.

Madam Speaker, knowledge of the money supply is one of the keys to understanding the state of the economy. The least the American people should expect from the Federal Reserve Board is complete and accurate information regarding the money supply. I urge my colleagues to ensure that the American people can obtain that information by cosponsoring the Sunshine in Monetary Policy Act.

FREEDOM SCHOONER "AMISTAD" TRANSATLANTIC VOYAGE

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 15, 2007

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the transatlantic voyage of the Freedom Schooner *Amistad* vessel, which is scheduled this month in commemoration of the bicentennial abolition of the Transatlantic Slave Trade in the United Kingdom and the United States and to enter into the RECORD an article from Carib News entitled "Amistad To Sail in Bid To Build Understanding and Unity."

I am pleased to know that on June 21, 2007, the Freedom Schooner *Amistad* vessel, a replica of the original ship in which Africans that were kidnapped upstaged a revolt, will set sail from New Haven, Connecticut, on an 18 month transatlantic journey called the Atlantic Freedom Tour to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the abolishment of the Transatlantic Slave Trade in the United Kingdom and United States. College students from the United States, the United Kingdom, and other Atlantic Basin countries will partake in this historic voyage that will duplicate the notorious slave route while studying maritime issues, environmental issues, and the slave trade. These students will also serve as crew members.

This commemorative voyage offers an excellent opportunity for people all over the world to learn about the Transatlantic Slave Trade and its profound impact then and now on those who survived the high seas and the countries in the Western Hemisphere where they were enslaved. Awareness and acknowledgement of the immeasurable sacrifices and suffering endured should never be forgotten. Although the Transatlantic Slave Trade is a dark part of world history, its abolishment symbolizes the initial key steps towards growth and progress in race relations and human rights globally.

I introduced a resolution to commemorate the abolishment of the Transatlantic Slave Trade in the United Kingdom. Thus, I applaud and appreciate the *Amistad* America organization for sponsoring this project. I further applaud my colleague, Senator CHRIS DODD of Connecticut, for supporting this effort by serving as Honorary Chairman of the Atlantic Freedom Tour.

I urge my colleagues to consider participating in commemoration activities that will occur in the United States next year when our own great country celebrates the bicentennial of legislation abolishing the Transatlantic Slave Trade.

AMISTAD TO SAIL IN BID TO BUILD UNDERSTANDING AND UNITY

NEW HAVEN, CONN., June 5.—AMISTAD America Chairman William Minter recently announced the Freedom Schooner *Amistad* will be departing its home port of New Haven on June 21st for its 2007–2008 Atlantic Freedom Tour. This historic transatlantic voyage—an epic 18-month journey commemorating the 200th anniversary of the abolition of the slave trade in the United Kingdom and next year in the United States—will promote the values of understanding and unity represented by *Amistad* itself. The Freedom Schooner *Amistad*, the vessel for change, is a replica of the original ship that was commandeered by Africans who had been captured in 1839. Attending the Farewell Ceremonies being held in New Haven on June 21st will be dignitaries from the countries being visited by *Amistad* during its historic tour. Connecticut Senator Chris Dodd, Honorary Chairman of the Atlantic Freedom Tour will also welcome U.S. luminaries.

"We are pleased that the international community has embraced *Amistad's* Atlantic Freedom Tour," stated Chairman Minter. "This Tour represents an opportunity to share the values of *Amistad*—freedom, collaboration, and justice—with communities around the Atlantic Basin with a particular outreach to linking students of all ages." Ten college students from the UK and the U.S. will augment the initial crew of the *Amistad* when it sets sail on its voyage to retrace the infamous slave trade route. In addition to sailing duties, students will be responsible for class study on maritime and environmental studies, as well as the social and economic history of port cities and the legacy of the slave trade. A total of 50 students from countries around the Atlantic Basin will participate as *Amistad* student/crew during the voyage.

From its first stop in Halifax, Nova Scotia, the *Amistad* will travel to England, arriving in London in early August in commemoration of the 200th anniversary of the Abolition Act passed by England's Parliament. The *Amistad* will then join in the Liverpool National Museum's public opening of the International Slavery Museum on August 23rd, the UNESCO designated Slavery Remembrance Day. The ship travels on to Bristol before continuing its voyage to Portugal and the West Coast of Africa, marking major points in the history of the slave trade.

In December the *Amistad* will sail into the harbor of Freetown, Sierra Leone, the original West African homeland of many of the *Amistad* captives. This symbolic "homecoming" will be a capstone event of the Atlantic Freedom Tour. The *Amistad* will return to the United States via the Caribbean and Bermuda in Spring of 2008 and travel to multiple ports coming up the East Coast as the U.S. commemorates the bicentenary of legislation to ban the importation of slaves.

To find out more about the *Amistad* Atlantic Freedom Tour, visit <http://www.amistadamerica.org>.

RECOGNIZING THE DIGNIFIED CONTRIBUTION OF LIZZIE PALMER TO THE PUBLIC APPRECIATION OF OUR TROOPS

HON. DEBORAH PRYCE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 15, 2007

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize 15-year-old Lizzie Palmer, a constituent of mine from Columbus, Ohio, for her powerful and emotion-provoking video production, Remember Me.

For those who have not seen it, I respectfully recommend you do so. A 5-minute montage of photos of American soldiers and their families, Lizzie's video does not editorialize on the War in Iraq. It does not choose sides in the debate on the War on Terror. It is not a political statement. Rather, it conveys the very message that so many of us in this body recite day in and day out on this very floor: support the troops.

Yet it conveys her support for the troops in a thoughtful, dignified and mature manner that fully transcends the way in which the phrase is often used as a tagline by so many on both sides of the debate.

Unfortunately and unwittingly, however, Lizzie herself has become embroiled in America's debate on the war. The deep-seated and sincere emotions that so many Americans feel about the War on Terror have now entered her realm, and have somehow cast her video as controversial, where no controversy should exist.

On YouTube, Lizzie's video has been watched more than 12 million times, and nearly 6,000 viewers have posted their comments and reactions to it. While most postings come from people deeply moved and appreciative of Lizzie's creation, the site also now serves as host to our nation's bitter divide on our presence in Iraq—a vitriolic and rancorous debate over America's foreign policy.

Inciting such a debate was never Lizzie's intention. According to Lizzie, she created this video to express her gratitude to the American men and women of our nation's all-volunteer force. She simply wanted to express her appreciation to our soldiers who day in and day out perform their duty professionally and proficiently, without qualification and without complaint.

Just as she does not pass judgment on why they are there, we should not seek to use Remember Me to further our own agenda. Those who do so have entirely failed to grasp the simple but fundamental message Lizzie is conveying to our soldiers: we support you without qualification. We should honor them all, and thank them for their thankless task at hand.

We all sit stateside, out of harm's way, opine on the efficacy of our mission in Iraq, and all claim to have the best interests of our troops at heart. But sometimes it takes the clearer vision of a 15-year-old—a vision unfettered, unencumbered, and unclouded by the politics of the world around us—to help remind us of what is truly important in this debate.